IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

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) Case No. CIV-18-0429-F
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ORDER

This matter was referred to Magistrate Judge Charles B. Goodwin, and later to Magistrate Judge Suzanne Mitchell, for the purpose of conducting a judgment debtor hearing on assets. After defendants repeatedly failed to appear for hearings set by Magistrate Judge Mitchell, plaintiff moved for an order to show cause why defendants should not be adjudged in contempt of court. The Magistrate Judge granted plaintiff's motion and set the case for hearing on November 16, 2018. Defendants failed to appear at that hearing as well, and plaintiff asked the court to find defendants in contempt. Magistrate Judge Mitchell then issued her Report and Recommendation of November 21, 2018. Doc. no. 51 (the Report). The Report certifies facts in support of the Magistrate Judge's conclusion that further contempt proceedings are warranted, and that the district court should hold an evidentiary hearing on plaintiff's request that defendants be held in contempt. The Report further advised that any objection to the Report was due by December 12, 2018. No objection was filed.

After review, and with there being no objection to the Report, the court ACCEPTS AND AGREES WITH the Report's conclusion that plaintiff has adduced sufficient evidence to warrant further contempt proceedings, specifically, an evidentiary hearing on plaintiff's request that defendants be held in civil contempt. *See*, 28 U.S.C. §636(e)(6)(B)(iii) (after the Magistrate Judge certifies facts to a district judge, district judge shall hear evidence as to the act or conduct complained of). Plaintiff and the defendants are **ORDERED** to appear for that hearing on January 23, 2019, at 1:30 p.m., at the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse, 200 N.W. 4th Street, Courtroom 305, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102.

At the January 23 hearing, evidence will be heard and the court will make a *de novo* factual determination, including any credibility determinations that may be necessary, as to whether the defendants should be held in contempt of court. Plaintiff, as the party requesting that defendants be held in contempt, will have the burden to prove by clear and convincing evidence that a valid court order (or orders) existed, that defendants had knowledge of the order(s), and that defendants disobeyed the order(s). *See*, doc. no. 51, p. 3. If defendants are found to be in contempt, then the undersigned shall also determine the manner and extent of punishment for that conduct. *See*, 28 U.S.C. §636(e)(6)(B)(iii) ("The district court shall thereupon hear the evidence as to the act or conduct complained of and, if it is such as to warrant punishment, punish such person in the same manner and to the same extent as for a contempt committed before a district judge").

Plaintiff is **DIRECTED** to serve this order on the defendants. Plaintiff **SHALL** file proof of service no later than January 16, 2019.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 19th day of December, 2018.

STEPHEN P. FRIOT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE